

TALK OF THE TOWN

February 2021 Newsletter



Stormwater and Environmental Services Manager Terry Hackett (left) and Public Space Manager Stephanie Trueblood pick up trash on Oakdale Drive. They are asking community volunteers to contact them if interested in helping to pick up litter.

Help Spring Clean Our Roadways

Have you noticed litter accumulating on state roads? If you want to help pick up the roadside trash in and near town, the Town of Hillsborough would like to hear from you.

“Stormwater runoff and litter are not a good mix,” said Stormwater and Environmental Services Manager Terry Hackett. “Litter blocks storm drains and pipes, causing nuisance flooding. Stormwater runoff can carry litter directly to local streams and rivers where it can entangle wildlife and cause water quality problems.”

Small groups are needed to pick up litter before spring mowing begins.

Want to help?

The town will provide safety vests, trash grabbers and bags and will haul away the filled trash bags. Email Public Space Manager Stephanie Trueblood at stephanie.trueblood@hillsboroughnc.gov.

The Hillsborough Public Works Department will remove the filled bags.

“Pitching in to help clean up our community is a great way to show we’re all in this together,” said Public Space Manager Stephanie Trueblood. “Litter removal can be a safe activity during the COVID-19 pandemic and shows we care for our town. Small groups can make a big difference.”

Cates Creek Project Receives Award

The Town of Hillsborough’s compost blanket project at Cates Creek Park received an honorable mention award from the Stormwater Management Division of the American Public Works Association’s North Carolina chapter late last year.

The town’s Public Space and Stormwater and Environmental Services divisions collaborated on the project, which involved installing compost and native plants on slopes in Cates Creek Park to eliminate erosion, reduce stormwater runoff and provide other benefits to the natural environment.

To learn more about the project, see the latest issue of the town’s Stormwater Almanac, located on the Stormwater and Environmental Education page on the town website. The almanac is a newsletter created by the town’s Stormwater and Environmental Services Division.



Police Department Unveils MADD Vehicle

The Hillsborough Police Department unveiled a patrol vehicle in January with the MADD logo on the sides and back. The design is reflective at night for use in patrol work and sobriety checkpoints, and the vehicle will be featured at community events in addition to daytime patrol work.

Hillsborough Cpl. Chad Wilson worked with State Program Specialist Lori Brown of the MADD North Carolina State Office and Mincey's Graphics to select graphics.

"Throughout my career, I have seen the damage caused by DWI offenses to families and property," Wilson said. "I know that DWIs are preventable incidents and that continued effort will save lives in the long run."

The Town of Hillsborough thanks Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram; Mincey's Graphics; the ABC Commission; MADD; and Brown for contributing in the establishment of a Hillsborough MADD patrol vehicle.



Hillsborough Cpl. Chad Wilson (top photo, left) and Police Chief Duane Hampton with a vehicle that will help the department raise awareness about intoxicated driving. MADD Regional Chapter Leader Ollie Jeffers (bottom photo, left) and State Program Specialist Lori Brown participated in the unveiling Jan. 8.

Reminders

COVID-19 vaccinations — As of the publication of this newsletter, those who are age 65 or older are eligible to be vaccinated in North Carolina. The state encourages residents to start by contacting your local health department but you are not restricted to receiving the vaccine from your health department. Appointment options include:

- The Orange County Health Department at 919-913-8088 or visit www.orangecountync.gov/GetYourShot
- UNC Health at YourShot.org
- Duke Health at dukehealth.org
- Cone Health at conehealth.com

Continue practicing the 3 W's —

Regardless of whether you've had a vaccine, practice the three W's until public health experts tell us that these precautions are no longer necessary.

- *Wear* a face covering or mask.
- *Wait* at least 6 feet apart.
- *Wash* hands often for 20 seconds.

COVID testing — Orange County offers free testing at the Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough. Testing is outside and sometimes canceled due to weather. See www.orangecountync.gov/testing.

Flu shots — The Orange County Health Department urges everyone to get vaccinated against influenza. Visit vaccinefinder.org/find-vaccine.

No loose leaf collection — Loose leaf collection ended in January. Leaves can be placed in paper or biodegradable bags for brush collection.

Heater Causes Fire in Garbage Truck

A kerosene heater discarded in a rollout cart caused a small fire in a garbage truck in January. The heater had an automatic igniter with batteries still in it.

Batteries and fuel tanks are among items the town does not collect for disposal within garbage carts or through monthly bulk items pickup.

Items not collected

The town does not collect: batteries; fuel tanks or fuel cans; hazardous, medical, shock-sensitive or radioactive waste; chemical byproducts; pressurized containers; used oil; construction or demolition materials; recyclable cardboard; and recyclable plastic bottles.

Help Needed

Consider helping a local household pay for water.

The Town of Hillsborough has directed more than \$53,000 in federal CARES Act funds to the Water Assistance Program, but the need for donations remains high. To help, visit the town's website or email customerservice@hillsboroughnc.gov.

